

Truth's Principles:

O R,

Those Things about DOCTRINE and
WORSHIP, which are most surely be-
lieved and received amongst the People
of G O D, called

QUAKERS:

V I Z.

Concerning the Man *CHRIST*, His Suffer-
ings, Death, Resurrection, Faith in his Blood,
the Imputation of his Righteousness, San-
ctification, Justification, &c.

Written, to stop the mouth of Clamour, and to inform
all who desire to know the Truth as it is in Jesus;

By the Servant of the Lord, *John Crook.*

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To which is added, Somewhat
Concerning the Difference between the Perswasions of
REASON, and the Perswasions of FAITH.

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TRUTH'S PRINCIPLES:

OR,

*Those things about Doctrine and Worship, which are
most surely believed and received amongst the
People of God, called QUAKERS.*

Many are the Reports that are abroad concerning this People, not only as to their Practices and Deportments, but also as to their Doctrines and Beliefs. The former time having in a great measure resolved and worn out, as being *the refuge of lyes* for the ignorant and unrighteous to fly unto; but that stormy and wintry appearance is well nigh *over and gone*, because the Sun is so far risen, *and the true Light shineth*, that most begin to see, that those Reports were but lyes and scandals, raised as *Fig-leaves* to cover the nakedness of other Professions, that began to manifestly to appear, through the Light that shined in these Peoples *Lives and Conversations*. But though the first be gone, yet the latter still sticks with many, as not knowing what they *bold*, as to Doctrine, some saying they deny *the Scripture*, and the *Resurrection of the body*, and all *Ordinances*, with the *Man Christ*, and his *Death and Sufferings*, and *imputation of his Righteousness*, and *faith in his Blood*, &c. Wherefore, for the satisfaction of all that would willingly be resolved, and know the Truth *as it is in Jesus*, I have written this short Account of their *Faith and Beliefs*; and if it were

possible to stop the mouth of clamorous tongues, before Sentence be given against them by some signal stroke of the Lord from Heaven, which he will undoubtedly in his appointed time reveal and make manifest, to the trembling of all hearts concerned therein, and tingling of all ears that shall hear thereof, when it shall be said unto them, *The holy shall be holy still ; and he that is filthy, let him be filthy still,* Rev. 22. 11.

We believe, That the God of all Grace, hath given a measure of Grace, or some *manifestation of his Spirit* and Light thereof unto all men, according unto these Scriptures ; John 1. 9. Titus 2. 11. 1 Cor. 12. 7. Neh. 9. 20. and experiences of all men, who (at some time or other) do feel something in their *Hearts and Consciences*, that doth lust against the flesh, and the flesh against it, and that these two *are contrary the one to the other* ; one lusting after *evil*, which is evil ; and the other after *good*, which is good ; the one *carnal*, the other *spiritual* ; the one from the *Earth*, the other from *Heaven*, Gal. 5. 16, 17.

We believe, By this Gift, Grace, and Inspiration of the Almighty, man onely can come *to know the true God truly* ; what he is, and how he works in the Hearts and Consciences of People, to regenerate them and make them bear his Image, according unto 1 Cor. 1. 19, 20, 21. Luke 10. 21. and experiences of all that ever were *regenerate and born again*.

We believe, That all the Errors and mistakes about God, and the things relating to his Kingdom, sprang and arose from mens wandring from this Gift of God into their own Imaginations ; whereby, though they thought

thought themselves wise, yet they became fools and erred, their foolish hearts being darkned, according to Rom. 1. not knowing the Scriptures nor the Power of God, as it is written, Mat. 22. 29.

We believe and know, that this Gift and Grace of God appears in and unto all men, that all may be without excuse, accusing for the evil, and excusing for the good, according to Rom. 2. 15, 16. shewing unto man what is good, and reproving of him in his own Conscience for the evil, whether thoughts, words or deeds; and that this reproof of Instruction is the way of Life, Prov. 6. 23.

We believe, that as the true God and Eternal Life is known only by the light of this Gift and Grace, according unto the Scriptures, from which Light and Spirit of God came the Scriptures, both of the Old and New Testament, as it is written, 2 Pet. 1. 21. so can they only be read, as truly to be believed, fulfilled and practised, in the Light and Power of the same; and all that are out of this Spirit, must needs be ignorant and unlearned in the Apostle's sense, who wrest the Scriptures to their own destruction, as it is written: for Peter and John were unlearned men outwardly, not knowing letters, but inwardly read in the knowledge of this Light and Spirit of God, and wrested not the *SCRIPTURES*, Acts 4. 13., 2 Pet. 3. 16.

We believe, according to the Scriptures, 2 Cor. 4. 3. that wheresoever the Power of God is not known within, there the Gospel is hid and unknown unto them that are lost, in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them that believe not, lest the Light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, who is the Image of God, should shine unto them, and

and God should heal them ; because it is only by the Light of Christ, *the Power of God*, that the Creature comes truly to see himself in his lost and undone estate ; from which sight ariseth the true sense in the heart of the Creature, that makes him cry out of his wretchedness, by reason of the *body of sin and death*, which necessitates him to look out for a Saviour, whom God manifesteth in and by the same Light, *that shines in the heart*, on purpose *to give the light of the knowledge of the Glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, God's Image*, whereby God healeth the soul : And therefore doth the Devil, *the god of the world*, strive so much by the gifts of the pleasures, profits, vanities, and lusts that are in the world, which he presenteth to men and women now, as he did to Christ, in the dayes of his flesh, when he shewed to him *all the world, with its glory* ; which Glory is, *the Lust of the flesh, the Lust of the eye, and the Pride of Life*, what-ever may make this Life happy (as it were) in the things that may pride it, or lift it up *to sit as Queen* : And as men and women take and receive these Gifts from the *God of this world*, their minds are blinded, because they believe not in the Light, which sheweth them the Vanities of all the Gifts of *the god of this world* ; which gifts the Devil knows (if they be received) will so blind the minds of them that receive them, that they will not come to be sensible in the true Light of their lost Conditions, so as to cry unto God from the deep and true sense ; for then God, out of the depths of his Love and Mercy, could not but *heal them* : And therefore, lest the true Light should *shine into them*, to give them the sensible knowledge of themselves, and God should heal them, the Devil (as *god of the world*, by the things

things of the world) endeavours to blind the mind (not the brain-knowledge, but the hearty-feeling fence within in the mind) lest the Light within shoule so shine, as God shoule heal them ; and all the buslings of Satan with his gifts, are but to blinde the mind within, lest God shoule heal the soul, that complains to him from the true sight and fence of his Misery , as in himself.

By this Grace and Gift within, we believe, That to us (though in the world there be Lords many, and Gods many) there is but ONE GOD, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, witnessed within man onely by the Spirit of Truth, that manifests both the Father and the Son ; and yet these three are one, and agree in one ; and he that honours the Father, honours the Son that proceeds from him ; and he that denies the Spirit, denies both the Father and the Son, and is Anti-Christ ; but he that believes in the Spirit, and is led by it, is the Son of God, Rom. 8. 14. As many as are the Sons of God, are led by the Spirit of God.

We believe, The Scriptures bear witness unto, and testify of Christ ; but they say the Witness of God is greater than them, the Spirit is self bearing witness with our spirits, that we are the Sons of God : for it is not the Scriptures without the Spirit, nor the Spirit contrary to the Scriptures, but the Spirit's discovering the Will of God in the heart, or opening of the Scriptures in its own time and way, and not in or by the will of man, but as it self pleaseth (who searcheth all things, even the deep things of God, and manifests them unto the soul) which giveth the perfect sound and saving knowledge ; for said Christ, The Spirit shall take of mine, and shew them

them unto you. And as holy men gave forth the Scriptures, 2 Pet. 1. 21. so holy men, and they only, come truly to understand them, and not proud or ungodly men; because their hearts and lives do not answer the hearts and lives of those that gave them forth, as face answereth face in a glass. And this we believe to be the reason, why so long preaching (by men of *corrupt minds*, who have and do handle the words *deceitfully*, for *selfish ends* and *filthy lucre-fake*) hath brought forth so little fruit, and been to so little purpose, except to their purses and bellies; for *had they believed, and therefore spoken, and stood in God's Counsel, they should have profited their bearers,* Jer. 23. 21, 22, 23. to the end.

Through this Gift, we believe, That Christ Jesus (the Son of God) was manifest in the flesh, in the fulness of time. And this we know by the same Spirit, by which our fathers believed he should come, and *Abraham saw his day*; by the same do we believe he is come, and do see his day; as also by the Prophets and Apostles Writings, which *twofold Cord is not easily broken*.

We believe also, according to the Scriptures of Truth, That *this same Jesus hath God highly exalted, and given him a Name above every Name, that whosoever believes in him, shall not perish, but have Everlasting Life*; and that there is not another Name whereby man can be saved, than this Name of Jesus Christ; nor is Remission of Sins to be preached by any other Name. But as we do not believe that the outward letters & syllables are that Name, that are to be bowed to by the outward knee, no more than the letters or syllables in the words, *God, or Spirit*, seeing the Scripture saith, *Unto God, who is a Spirit, every knee shall bow*, Isa. 45. 23. But that Name which saves

saves, is the Power and Arm of God, that brings Salvation from Sin, and makes every soul that names it, to depart from Iniquity. This is that Name which was preached, and which is preached through Faith, in which Name remission of sin is obtained : Therefore was the outward word *Jesus* given him, as his outward name ; *Thou shalt call his name J E S U S, for he shall save his People from their Sins* : [Mark] *for he shall save, &c.* So that which saves, is the Name, which is to be believed in, which is that Arm of God that brings Salvation, *when no eye pities, neither is there any to help* ; the Power of God that then saves, is that Grace that comes from the fulness of Christ the Saviour : And without this vertue, *Christ and Jesus are but empty names*, 1 Cor. 12. 3, *No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the holy Ghost.*

We believe also, That this *Jesus* died for, or because of Sin, and rose again for the Justification of those that believe in him, as well as to manifest to all the world, that he was the Son of God, and that he thereby spoiled *Principalities and Powers*, and triumphed over them openly, and led captivity captive in his own person ; yet we believe and know, by his Grace in our hearts, that as his name *Jesus*, without vertue and power, is but an empty word ; so his Dying, without man's Conformity to his Death, or being planted into the likeness thereof, or being crucified with Christ (as saith the Scripture, Rom. 6. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. Gal. 2. 20.) will not profit man, as to the Salvation of his soul, no more than the naming of his outward name [*Jesus*] doth at this day make people to depart from Iniquity. For we believe, and are sure, that man must dye inwardly, as well as Christ died outwardly, and must be put to death in his flesh, as Christ was in his : for *he that is in the flesh, cannot please God*, Rom. 8. 8. *neither cease from sin* ; but *he that is dead, is freed from sin*, Rom. 6. 7. And yet mans dying unto sin, and the root and principle of it in himself, is so far from making void Christ's Death in his own person, that it establisheth it to all those ends and purposes, for which it was intended of the Father. As the Cures which the Physician doth, manifest and establish his skill and ability ; so doth mans dying unto sin and self, and living unto God, manifest and establish the vertue and power of Christ's

Death: for as man manifests his being risen with Christ, by his seeking the things that are above, Col. 3. 1, 2. so doth he manifest his knowledge of the Death of Christ, by his being crucified with Christ, and bearing about in his body the dyings of the Lord Jesus; for as it is not an outward belief, gathered from the letter, that will change the heart and life (though the judgment and opinion it may) so is it not a belief from the history, or letter only, that can give man a saving knowledge of the Death of Christ; but he must have the same glory and Power of the Father in measure, working in him there, to beget Faith in his heart, that he may believe unto Salvation from his own filthiness and righteousness, as well as confess with his mouth, Rom. 10. and must have that Spirit in him quickning his mortal body, as well as to believe that it was in Christ, and raised up him from the dead, Rom. 8. 11. And this man, whoever he be, bond or free, that thus believes the Death of Christ, and its satisfaction to God, as well as its usefulness to man, cannot make it void, nor divide it and its vertue upon the soul that thus knows it, but will say, here is a dying man, witnessing the Death of Christ, and nevertheless the same man living with Christ, and concluding if Christ had not died, man must have perished in his sin; this being the way found out by God to recover him, whereby he knows Christ and him crucified, and what the preaching of the Cross of Christ is, which is foolishness to them that perish, but to them that are saved, the Wisdom of God, and the Power of God, 1 Cor. 1. 28.

By this Gift of God in our hearts, we further believe, That Christ Jesus rose again from the dead, according unto the Scriptures, and sits at God's right hand in a glorious body; and we believe that our low estates and humbled bodies shall be made like unto his glorious Body, through the working of his mighty Power, whereby he is able to subdue all things unto himself; and that his mortality shall put on immortality. For though we believe that Christ Jesus hath lighted every man with his Light, whereby man may come to know himself lost and undone, as before is said; yet therefore is not every man saved, though the Grace that appears to all men is sufficient in it self; but some have the Grace of God bestowed on them in vain, not liking to retain God

God in their knowledge, though something within them shewes them what is good ; but they reject the Counsel of God within, or against themselves, to their own destruction, Luk. 7. 30. (see the Margent) and yet it doth not follow that the Grace is insufficient of it self, no more than it follows that Christ's Death is insufficient, because he tasted death for every man, and yet every man is not saved. Neither doth Regeneration, or the believing in the Light of Christ within, make void the Death and Sufferings of Christ without at Jerusalem, no more than believing the Scripture-testimony without concerning Christ's Death, makes void the work of Regeneration and Mortification within ; but as the Apostle saith in another case, so say I in this, *For as the man is not without the woman, neither is the woman without the man in the Lord* ; even so is not the Death and Sufferings of Christ without at Jerusalem, to be made void and of none effect by any thing within, neither doth the Light within make that of none effect without, but both in the Lord answers his will ; for though there is, and may be, a knowledge and belief of what Christ did and suffered without the Gates, in his own body, upon the Tree, and yet sin alive in the heart, and the work of Regeneration not known ; yet it cannot be so where the Light within is believed on, and obeyed, so as to have its perfect work in the heart, to regenerate and make all things new, and to be of God ; this man can never make void what Christ hath done and suffered without : And yet this new-birth, or Christ formed within and dwelling in the heart by Faith, doth not limit or confine Christ to be only within, and not without also, but both within and without, according to the good pleasure of the Father to reveal and make him known ; for, *he fills all things, and the Heaven of Heavens cannot contain him*, and yet is he at God's right hand, far above all Heavens, in a glorious body.

And we also believe the Resurrection of the Just and Unjust, the one to Salvation, and the other to Condemnation, according unto the Judgment of the great Day ; and then shall every Soul have its own body, according to 1 Cor. 15. 36, 37, 38. Which we verily believe : for if the dead arise not, we are of all men most miserable. But because we dare not be so foolishly inquisitive, as to say,

With what bodies shall they arise? therefore do some say, we deny both the Resurrection of the Body of Christ, and of all that are or shall be dead: But this also is false; for *every man shall be raised in his own order*; but *Christ the first fruits*, 1 Cor. 15. 23. And we believe, they shall be raised with the same bodies, so far as a natural and spiritual, corruptible and incorruptible, terrestrial and celestial can be the same.

We further believe, according unto the Scriptures, concerning Faith, That that *Faith* is only true, which is *God's gift*, and hath *Christ Jesus*, the Power of *God*, for its au hor and object, and is dittinguished from the dead *Faith* by its fruits: for though in discription and definition they may carry a resemblance, yet in nature are as different as a living man is from a dead, which wants not form or shape, but life and power. So saith the Apostle *James*, *As the body without a spirit is dead, so is Faith without Works*; even so is that *Faith* which stands in the wisdom of words, and not in the power of *God*: by the one, man is kept in captivity to the world and the things of it, but by the other he hath *victory over the world*, 1 Joh. 5. 4. and the *Seal and Witness* thereof in his own *heart*, whereby it is *purified*, and *God* is seen; for *the pure in heart see God*, Mat. 5. 8. This *Faith* differs men now, and their Worships, as it did *Cain and Abel*; for, by *Faith Abel offered up a more excellent Sacrifice than Cain*, Heb. 11. By this living *Faith*, *Abel* saw beyond the *Sacrifice unto Christ*, the first-born of *God*, beyond the *firsling of the flock*, which he offered, and therefore *God* had respect unto *Abel* and his Offering; but *God* rejected *Cain* and his Offering; though he had *Faith* to believe it to be his duty, yet sticking in the *Form*, and not flying on the *wing of Faith* unto *Christ* the *One Offering*, he missed the mark, as all have done ever since that have gone in *Cain's way of worshipping*, as well as killing men about *Worship*. But we believe that *Faith* to be only true and saying, that flies over self-righteousness, as well as filthiness, unto the *Fountain of Life* in *Christ*; which *Faith* hath nothing of man in it, but is *as the breath of Life by which the Soul lives*; not a bare assent to the truth of a proposition in the natural understanding, but the *Soul's cleaving unto God*, out of a naturalness between *Christ* and the *Soul*; and so lives rather by relation,

tion, than bare credit or desperate adventure and hazard ; not looking at its doing to commend it, but God's love and bounty in Christ the Light, to receive it ; and yet Holiness is its delight, and he can no more live out of it, than the fish upon the dry land.

We believe, that this *Faith* keeps the mind pure and the heart clean, through the sprinkling of the heart from an evil conscience, by the *Blood of Jesus*, which remits the Sin, and justifies the Soul, through the vertue of this Blood received into the heart by this living *Faith*, which receives all its power and vertue from Christ, in whom it abides as its root and object, whereby *Justification* is witnessed from *Sin*, not in *Sin*, Rom. 6. 22. But now being made free from sin, and become servants unto God, you have your fruits unto Holiness, and the end everlasting Life.

We believe, that *Justification* and *Sanctification* are distinguished, but not divided : for as he that sanctifieth and justifieth is one, so do these go together ; and when the Soul hath the greatest sence of *Justification* upon it, through the vertue of the *Blood of Jesus* by the living *Faith*, then is it most in love with Holiness, and at the greatest distance from *Sin* and *Evil* ; and whenever there is a failing in *Sanctification*, there is also some eclipse of *Justification* in the eye of the Soul, until *Faith* hath recovered its strength again, which it lost by *Sin's* prevailing. For, as the farthest and clearest sight is in the brightest day ; so is it with the Soul, when it is most in the brightness and beauty of Holiness, its *Justification* appears most glorious, and its Union and Communion most sweet and lasting ; and so, like two twins, as they are much of an age, so they are like one to the other ; and what God hath joyned together, let no man put asunder.

We also by this Light believe, That Acceptance with the Father is only in Christ ; and by his Righteousness made ours, or imputed unto us ; not by the creaturely skil, but by the applicatory act of God's gift of Grace, whereby the soul feels the difference between self-applying by its own *Faith*, and God applying by his *Spirit*, and so making Christ unto the Soul, *Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification and Redemption* : So that we believe, and are sure, that there is a great difference between

Imputation, as it is the act of man's spirit, and as it is the act of free Grace, Without man's forcing. And so we distinguish between Imagination and Imputation, between reckoning or imputing that is real, and reckoning or imputation that is not real, but a fiction and imagination in the creaturely will and power: And because we are against the latter, we are clamoured upon, as if we denied the Imputation of Christ's Righteousness, when it is only unto those that are not made righteous by it, *to walk as he also walked*. For, as the Scripture saith, It is not he that saith he is righteous by the imputation of Christ's Righteousness, but *he that doth righteousness is righteous, as Christ is righteous*, 1 Joh. 3. 7. he that believes otherwise is deceived. And yet it is not Acts of Righteousness, as done by us, nor as inherent in us, as acts, by which we are accepted of God, and justified before him; but by Christ the Author and Worker of those acts in us and for us, whereby we know that we are in him, and he in us, and we hold him as our Head; into whom all things are gathered together in one, even in him.

We further believe, That God is only to be worshipped, and not any Likeness that man makes unto himself of God, from any view, sight or knowledge that he hath had of him, but in every act and service, man is to know what substantially, as well as whom speculatively or notionally he worshippeth, as it is written, Joh. 4. 22, *Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship; for Salvation is of the Jews*. And he that thus worships the Father, honours the Son by the same Spirit, which is one with the Father and the Son; in which Spirit only God is worshipped, according to the form of its own choosing and manifesting of itself in and by, according unto the good pleasure of the Father, who is a Spirit, and limits man unto the Spirit's form, but allows not man to limit the Spirit unto his form, though it be not of his inventing originally, but of the Father; yet man must no more limit God unto it, than he could command God to appear in it at first! For as he chose it himself, so he hath reserved liberty to leave it at his pleasure, *who works all things after the counsel of his own will, which he hath purposed in himself*, that the gift of the knowledge of the Mystery of his Will, might for ever be acknowledged to be of his Grace, and from

from the Riches of the Glory thereof, according to *Ephes.* 1., and man be bound, but God free ; man bound to wait in the Light for God's Movings, but God free to move in whom, to what, and when he pleaseth : then man is to go, when he saith go, and come, when he saith come ; and such Servants do serve him ; and then there is no more curse, as in the dayes of *Will-worship* and voluntary *Humility*, *but the Throne of God, and of the Lamb,* *Col. 2. 18, 23. Rev. 22. 3, 4.* and they shall see his Face, and his Name shall be on their foreheads.

We believe also, That this Worship is spiritual (and not carnal) in all its Parts and Ordinances, and not to be imposed by any outward force, but performed by the inward leadings of God's Spirit, according as the holy men of God were led and guided in the dayes past, who gave forth the Scriptures ; all impositions of Worship outward, being only enjoyned under the first Covenant, that made nothing perfect, *until the time of Reformation*, spoken of, *Heb. 9. 10.* But Christ being come, there is an end as well of such Impositions, as of the *Meats and Drinks, and divers Baptisms, and carnal Ordinances*, they being all but temporary, and in order unto an end ; but all to vail to Christ, the sum and substance of all, [*the first*] pointed at by all, and [*the last*] ending of all, *the Amen.* And he that thus worships God in Christ, his Ordinances are spiritual, and not carnal, and his Faith carries him beyond his Works, with *righteous Abel*, and preserves him that he is not drowned in the form, like *Cain* ; neither falls he short of the Glory of God, nor of his assurance of Acceptance with him.

We believe there is one Baptism necessary unto Salvation, *Ephes. 4. 5. One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism.* And this Baptism is Spiritual, of which John's Water was but a figure, *Joh. 1. 31. That he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come, baptizing with Water,* saith John : and *1 Pet. 3. 21.* The like figure whereunto, even Baptism, doth also now save us ; not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good Conscience towards God, by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. This one spiritual Baptism into the Name of Jesus Christ, is that which saves ; the Water being but a figure, that Christ might be manifest to Israel, who had divers Baptisms imposed on them, until

until the time of Reformation ; but Christ the Substance being come, the Shadows fly away. And yet where ever any are commanded now by the same Spirit that commanded the Believers to be Baptized in the dayes past; either for the furtherance of the Gospel, or tryal of their Faith, we judge them not. But this obedience is very rare to be found ; and we could heartily desire, that all would consider seriously, whether Litteral sayings observed only by outward reading, hearing by the ear, or inward impulses upon the heart by the Divine power, are the motives unto obediences in this kind. And if honesty and uprightness of heart may be heard, we believe and know, the many dead souls every where, notwithstanding their Baptisms, will be as so many witnesses against them, by their groveling upon the earth, as so many slain and killed men by the Letter, while the Spirit's quicknings have not been known in the true Baptism into death. For we find by daily experiences, that most men and women live like Pharoah's lean kine, only to eat up the fat, and to envy those that are not so lean-soul'd as themselves.

We believe also, That as there is one true saving Baptism, so is there one Bread or Body of Christ, which all the Saints do feed upon ; and though they be many as to persons, yet their Bread is but one, and they all in it but one Bread. And this we believe is *the flesh that came down from heaven*, Joh. 6. 33. Though the outward Jews now, as then, murmur at him, because he said, *I am the Bread which came down from heaven*, vers. 41, 42. But Christ, (vers. 45.) to stop their murmuring, tells them, that the knowledge of this Mystery was only revealed unto them whom God (and not man) teacheth ; and no more than are taught of God, can set seal and subscribe unto this truth in Jesus : though we believe also, that Jesus did take outward Bread, and brake it, and gave it to the Disciples, as the Scripture faith ; and this was a figure of his Body (that was to be pierced and broken upon the Tree) and a shew, to shew forth his Death until he came. And we believe he did arise again, and appear unto his Disciples ; *And all that believed were together, and had all things common, &c. And they continuing daily with one accord in the Temple, breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having*

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faavour with all the People, Acts 2.44, 45, 46, 47. And we believe that the Apostle, in 1 Cor. 11. 20. saith true, where he saith, *When ye come together therefore in one place, this is not to eat the Lord's Supper.* And all that he speaks in that Chapter, is not to perpetuate that outward breaking of Bread, otherwise than as the Believers did, that *Were filled with the holy Ghost in singleness of heart*, as before is said; and yet we judge not those who break outward Bread, and drink outward Wine, being commanded so to do, and put in remembrance thereby of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, by the Remembrancer, the Spirit of Truth, which is appointed by the Father to lead into all Truth. But so do it by imitation, or tradition onely, (as most do it, if not all at this day) we know it is not an Offering unto God in Righteousness, neither do we believe this to be the Communion of the Body and Blood of Christ; and yet, *the eating of the Flesh, and drinking of the Blood of Christ, we believe man must know and witness, or he hath no life in him*, Joh. 6.53,54,55. And we believe that many are striving now in their spirits, as the Jews did, vers. 52. saying, *How can this man give us his flesh to eat?* And not only the Jews, but many of his Disciples laid, *This is a hard saying, who can bear it?* ver. 60. and at vers. 63. he tells them, *It is the Spirit that quickens, the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit, and they are Life:* and he that hears and understands these words that are *Spirit and Life*, will not be offended at what I have spoken of the *Flesh and Blood of Christ.*

By the same Spirit and Grace we believe, That Prayer is an Ordinance of God, when performed by his Spirit, in its words, (and not those which man's wisdom teacheth) or without words, by sighs and groans which cannot be uttered, and these so often as the Spirit it self pleareth: But the Form without the Spirit, whether it be by words of other men's framing, or words of a man's own spirit, according to his will, time and manner; this is not the Prayer that prevails with God. And we believe there is none so weak and infirm, but this Spirit proffers its help at sometime or other, though man regardeth it not. And the more man's mind is gathered within from all visibles, the more he comes to be sensible of the movings and stirrings of this Spirit,

rit, in its secret cryes to God, answerable to the wants of that man or woman, in whom it moves and cryes. And by the due watching thereunto, we believe and know the Spirit of Prayer and of Adoption, that cryes unto God, comes to be discerned and distinguished from a man's own spirit and will.

We believe by the same gift of Grace, that there are several Administrations, and several Operations, according to 1 Cor. 12, and all by the same Spirit, as before the Law, and after the Law by Moses, and after by John the Baptist, and Christ and his Apostles; and in all these the Ministration had acceptance with God through the management of the Spirit, and its rejection and dislike of God for the want thereof. And by this Spirit were the Scriptures given forth, and the holy men of God did speak, prophesie, preach and pray as they were moved; and for want of it, ~~the letter did, and doth kill,~~ And for the further appearance and pouring out of this Spirit, answerable unto the work and service that God had for them to do, they were to wait, as Christ commanded his Disciples to do at Jerusalem, to receive the Promise of the Father: For, by this Spirit, he that speaks, speaks ~~as the Oracle of God,~~ And therefore, as it was the practice of the People of God in old time, to wait for the moving and stirring of this Spirit, that they might speak ~~as it gave them assurance,~~ in the evidence and demonstration thereof; so do this People (called Quakers) now; and according to its moving in their hearts, they minister, according to the signification of the Spirit, whereby they understand both what and when to speak, and when to be silent; as also, who they are that minister and speak in their own wills, ~~above the Cross of Christ,~~ which the Apostle was careful always to be in subjection to, lest he should make it void, by speaking the words which man's wisdom teacheth; and therefore as the Saints did, ~~so we do believe, and therefore we speak:~~ and such Preaching and Speaking in Faith, as well as Praying in Faith, is acceptable unto God, as his Worship, and not otherwise.

And we further believe by the same Spirit, That the sum of all Religion, according to Truth, and the signification of the word [Religion] is, ~~Men not at liberty in his will, but bound again us,~~ to God, by his having given to him, by the Light of Christ within, the true sight and knowledge of himself, as in himself, ~~as best and wisdom~~ for

for ever, and from this fight a true sense so arise upon and remain with him ; from whence spring unutterable groans and cryes unto God, under the weight of the burden and wretchedness, by reason of the body of sin and death ; and then when there was none to help or pity in this state, then is Mercy shewed in Christ the Arm of God, which is revealed as an help, neither seen, nor known, where, how or when to come at it, or meet with it : And this begets in the heart of that man and woman, in, and unto whom it is thus revealed, thanks and praises unto God, for this Gift and Revelation of his Son, in this needful time, whom the soul sees to be the gift of Eternal Love.

And we believe and know, upon this *Love and Faithfulness of God*, is founded, built and established the *Everlasting Covenant* (whereby not only all men may be saved for its ability, but some shall be saved because of its prevalency) which is not like to the *Covenant which he made with our fathers*. And although all mankind is not saved, yet it is not because either of insufficiency in this *Covenant*, or because of the *weakness of the Grace* that appears in and unto all men ; but because of *mans will, loving death and choosing his own delusions*, whereby *his destruction is of himself*, and God clear of his blood in the free tender of his Grace, Gift, and *Brizing of his Spirit within him*. For we know assuredly, according to the Scriptures of Truth, and experience of all souls that ever were truly converted to God, that though *by Grace man is saved, not of himself, but by the free gift* ; yet as the old world did, and those rebellious Jews, spoken of, *Acts 7*. who, as did their fathers, so did they, *always resist the holy Ghost* ; so do men now ! And yet in the tender of this Grace, and striving of his Spirit, the Lord is a God so hiding himself in the management of this striving and ministration of his Spirit, as if it wholly depended upon man's choice and consenting, that man's will, as to him, is (as it were) free in rejecting or accepting, *Life and Death being set before him* ; whereby in the Wisdom of God, the propensity of his Nature, as it came out of the hands of his Maker, hath an advantage by this dealing of God, to put forth it self ; so that man is as free in the choice, as he is in the refusal of the tender of Mercy and help, and that with an *equal indifference*, as it appears to him in this state ; notwithstanding afterwards, in the

further growth in this Grace and knowledge of Christ, he sees clearly and convincingly, that the Grace (that wrought hiddenly from his sight and knowledge, in the first working, tender, and ministration of God towards him) gained his consent through its own prevalency in the Love of God ; by which sight and fence self comes to be abhorred, and the free Love so admired, that he knows from first to last, all was of Grace, and that free ; that self is not able to challenge any thing as due from what it had done, but all of gift, and yet, as before, with such an equal indifference on man's account; so that God may and will appear to be just, both in condemning and saving, and the Justifier freely of all that believe in Jesus, the Light of the World.

Therefore, let all take heed how they dislike this Ministration of God, and striving of his Spirit in their hearts and consciences, under colour and pretence of its insufficiency ; and therefore they will not come to him, because his drawings and strivings are not so strong as they would have them to be, looking for such an overpowering and irresistibleness, as they are not able to withstand and gainsay ; lest such perish through a wilful neglect, and for want of stretching out their hand, when the Lord holds out his ; and so they perish in the ditch, with a vain expectation of further power, or cry in their mouthes, *Lord have mercy upon us :* and so with the sluggard, while they cry, yet a little more slumber and folding of the hands to sleep, their Garden is overgrown with weeds, and their backs cloathed with rags, and they beg in harvest ; whilst others that have sown in tears, not fainting, do in due time reap in joy ; and not despising the crums that fell from the table, nor the day of small things, witness the presence of their Beloved, come down into his Garden, and walking among the Lillies.

Let these things be truly considered, pondred and weighed in the true Ballance of Light and Righteousnes, lest any soul perish through the false weight and measure ; so shall my soul rejoice that any have escaped the Net of the Fowler, through the discovery of the true Light, and God have all the glory, unto whom alone it belongs, and man ashamed, confounded, his mouth stopped, and he laid in the dust for ever ; and then shall my end be answered in writing these things.

THE END.

Concerning Perswasions in Masters of Religion.

There is the Natural man and the Spiritual man, and there are the Perswasions of each in and about matters of Religion. There is the Perswasion of *Reason*, and the Perswasion of *Faith*.

The Perswasion of *Reason* is that belief which man receives into his mind or heart from the exercise of the Reasoning Faculty : and this Perswasion in Matters of Religion is but Man's Opinion or Judgement, which how certain or infallible soever it appear to him, yet may be shaken by a demonstration or evidence of an higher kind and nature.

The Perswasion of *Faith* is that Belief, which the New-Creature receyves into the renewed mind, from the Evidence and Demonstration of the Spirit, which openeth and manifesteth the things of the Spirit, unto that mind which is begotten and renewed by it. And this Perswasion is certain and infallible; however it may be struck at and battered, by the reasonings of the wise, earthly part, even in that very man, whose heart is thus perswaded, by the Light of the Spirit of God, concerning the things of God's Kingdom.

Now the lowest Perswasion of *Faith* is higher and of a more noble nature than the highest Perswasion of *Reason*: because *Faith* is of an higher Principle, and of a deeper nature and ground, than Man's *Reason* is. But this (because it appears not in Man's sphere, but rather out of it, and is contrary to the line and reach of his wisdom) is accounted by him foolishnes and madnes.

Thus

Thus is the Wisdom of God (and the Children thereof),
judged and condemned by Man in his day.

And how can it be otherwise? How can the wisdom
of Man but judge that as foolishness, whose beauty and
excellency is hid from its eye? But this is, because the
wisdom of Man is out of its place; not subjected to the
Wisdom of God, but exalted above it; therefore (as a
curse unto it) is it suffered to lift up it self in its con-
ceitedness against, and so to persecute the pure Wisdom
of God and the births thereof, that it might fall, and be
broken, and snared, and taken, and its day deservedly
come to an end, and be shut up in the shadows and
chambers of eternal darkness.

But what ear of Man can hear this! Surely none that
is whole in the line of Man's wisdom, reason and under-
standing; but that alone which is bruised, broken and
in some measure dashed to pieces, by the inroads of a
diviner Life and Nature. This, in the leadings of that
Life which hath broken it, and in the shinings of the
Light Eternal upon it and into it, may be enabled to take
up the Cross to the natural part, and to die that Death
with Christ, which preserves from the second Death,
with the misery thereof.

Happy is he, who knows and hearkens to the Per-
suasions of God's Spirit, who is born of God, and taught
to wait upon him and worship him in Spirit, who receives
his Religion from the Light of Faith, into the renewed
Nature and Mind, and not from the Reason of Man into
the natural understanding, which is easily corrupted and
cannot be kept pure, but alone by the indwelling of the
Principle of Eternal Life in it.

For though such may suffer very deeply in this world;
from

from the men of this world (as the Subjects and Servants to the Principle of Life have done in all Ages and Generations) yet their Principle will bear them out, in which God will appear to strengthen and refresh their spirits, and carry them up above all their Sufferings in the Patience, Meekness, and Faith of the Lamb. And keeping to their Principle, they cannot be overcome, but must either live or die Conquerors, according to the Will and good Pleasure of Him who ordereth and disposeth of all things well, and bringeth good out of every evil, in despight of all the powers of darkness. And he that overcometh (whether by life or death) in the Lamb's Spirit, shall wear the Lamb's Crown, and sit down in that perfect Rest in the Kingdom of the Father, which will give the hearts of all his Children full Satisfaction. In which assured hope (Life stirring in our bosoms, and quickning our hearts with Love unto our God, and Zeal for his Truth) we can freely give up all that is near and dear unto us in this world, and lay down our heads in inward Peace, in the midst of the greatest outward Persecution and Trouble: *Even so, O Lord, thy Will be done concerning this Generation of thy People, whom thou hast begotten to thy self, and brought forth by thy mighty Power, to testify to thy Truth in this present day. Dispose of them as it pleaseth Thee, and let not their Faith in Thee, nor thy Faithfulness to Them fail; but let them be a Praise to thy Name throughout all Generations, and tendered by Thee as the First-fruits of thine Appearance, in the glorious Light of the everlasting Day, after this great, long, thick and dark night of Apostacy from the Life and Spirit of the Apostles, which hath so long eclipsed and covered the brightness of thy Beauty from the sight of the Earth.*

Isaac Penington.

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